CLAIMS:

1. A method for initiating contact between a first member of a social community residing at a first geographic location and a second member of the social community residing at a second

5 geographic location based upon common travel-related interests, using a member database comprising identities of members and geographic data related to respective members, the geographic data comprising residence locations of the respective members and travel destinations of interest to the respective members, the

10 method comprising:

identifying a travel destination of interest to the first member, the identified travel destination being different from at least one of the first and second destinations;

submitting a search request to the member database for

15 members having an association with the identified travel destination;

receiving a list comprising a group of members having an association with the identified travel destination, the group including the second member; and

20 sending a message to the second member, the message comprising information related to the identified travel destination.

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2.   The method of claim 1, wherein the search request further comprises a date restriction, and wherein the list comprises a group of members whose geographic data indicate that the respective members will be present at the identified travel destination at a time included within the date restriction.

3.   The method of claim 2, wherein the message comprises a notice that the first member will be at the identified travel destination during a time within the date restriction.

4.   The method of claim 1, wherein the identified travel destination comprises a geographic location to which the first member plans to travel.

5.   The method of claim 4, wherein the search request further comprises a request for members who also plan to travel to the identified travel destination.

6.   The method of claim 4, wherein the search request further comprises a request for members who also plan to travel to the identified travel destination at a time within a predetermined date restriction.

7.   The method of claim 4, wherein the identified travel destination comprises the second geographic location.

8.   The method of claim 1, wherein the identified travel destination comprises the first geographic location, and wherein the search request further comprises a request for members planning to travel to the first geographic location.

9.   The method of claim 1, further comprising submitting geographic data comprising one or more travel destinations to which the first member intends to travel.

10.   The method of claim 1, wherein the search request comprises one or more personal parameters to further limit members included in the list.

11.   The method of claim 10, wherein the personal parameters comprise at least one of age, appearance, marital status, sexual preferences, interests, hobbies of the members that may be included in the list.

12.   A system for facilitating contact between members of a social community residing at different geographic locations, based upon shared travel-related interests, comprising:

a member database comprising identities of members and geographic data related to respective members, the geographic data comprising residence locations of the respective members and travel destinations of interest to the respective members;

5   a search engine for searching the member database for members satisfying submitted search requests;

an interface for receiving a search request from a first member searching for other members having an association with a travel destination, the interface configured for submitting a

10 list comprising a group of identities of members having an association with the travel destination, the group including a second member; and

a message server for conveying a message from the first member to the second member.

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13. The system of claim 12, wherein the member database further comprises data indicating times when respective members will be at respective travel destinations.

20 14. The system of claim 13, wherein the search engine is configured for searching the member database for members who will be at respective travel destinations at times within a selected date restriction.

15. The system of claim 12, wherein the member database further comprises surrogate identities for members whose geographic data is included in the member database.

5   16. The system of claim 15, wherein the list comprises a group of surrogate identities of members having an association with the travel destination, and wherein the message server is configured for determining an address for the second member based upon a surrogate identity included in the message.

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17. A method for facilitating contact between members of a social community residing at different geographic locations based upon shared travel-related interests, the method comprising:

providing access to a member database comprising identities

15 of members and geographic data related to respective members, the geographic data comprising residence locations of the respective members and travel destinations of interest to the respective members;

receiving a search request from a first member searching for

20 other members having an association with a travel destination;

searching the member database for members satisfying the search request;

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sending a list to the first member, the list comprising a

group of identities of members having an association with the

travel destination, the group including a second member;

receiving a message from the first member intended for the

5   second member; and

sending the message to the second member.

18.   The method of claim 17, wherein the member database

further comprises data indicating times when respective members

10 will be at respective travel destinations.

19.   The method of claim 18, wherein the search request

further comprises a data restriction, and wherein the searching

step comprises searching the member database for members who have

15 indicated that they will be present at the travel destination at

a time including within the date restriction.

20.   The method of claim 19, wherein the message comprises a

notice that the first member will be at the travel destination

20 during a time within the date restriction.

21.   The method of claim 17, wherein the travel destination

comprises a travel destination to which the first member plans to

travel.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein the search request further comprises a request for members who also plan to travel to the travel destination.

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23. The method of claim 21, wherein the search request further comprises a request for members who also plan to travel to the travel destination at a time within a predetermined date restriction.

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24. The method of claim 17, wherein the travel destination comprises a residence location of members to be included in the list.

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25. The method of claim 17, wherein the travel destination comprises a residence location where the first member resides, and wherein the search request further comprises a request for members planning to travel to the residence location.

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26. The method of claim 17, wherein the list comprises a group of surrogate identities of members having an association with the travel destination, and wherein the sending step comprises determining an address for the second member based upon a surrogate identity included in the message.

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27.   The method of claim 17, wherein the search request further comprises one or more personal parameters associated with members of interest to the first member.

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28.   The method of claim 27, wherein the searching step comprises searching the member database for members meeting the personal parameters included in the search request.

10   29.   A method for facilitating contact between members of a social community residing at different geographic locations based upon shared travel-related interests, the method comprising:

providing access to a member database comprising surrogate identities of members, and geographic data related to respective

15   members, the geographic data comprising residence locations of the respective members and travel destinations of interest to the respective members;

receiving a search request from a first member requesting other members having an association with a travel destination;

20   searching the member database for members satisfying the search request;

sending a list to the first member, the list comprising a group of surrogate identities of members having an association with the travel destination, the group including a second member;

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receiving a message from the first member addressed to the surrogate identity of the second member; and

determining a true identity of the second member based upon the surrogate identity; and

5   sending the message to the second member.

30. The method of claim 29, wherein the social community comprises a plurality of member communities, wherein the member database further comprises true identities associating members 10 with their respective member communities.

31. The method of claim 30, wherein the message comprises a surrogate identity of the first member.

15   32. The method of claim 31, further comprising:

receiving a response from the second member addressed to the surrogate identity of the first member;

determining a true identity of the first member based upon the surrogate identity; and

20   sending the response to the first member.

33. A method for initiating contact between members of a social community residing at different geographic locations based upon shared travel-related interests, the method comprising:

providing a member database comprising identities of members
and geographic data related to respective members, the geographic
data comprising intended travel destinations of the respective
members and dates of intended travel to respective travel

5   destinations;

receiving a search request from a first member comprising an
identified travel destination and a date restriction;

searching the member database for members intending to
travel to the identified travel destination at a time within the

10   date restriction; and

sending a list to the first member, the list comprising a
group of identities of members intending to travel to the
identified travel destination at a time within the date
restriction.

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34.   The method of claim 33, further comprising:

receiving a message from the first member intended for the
second member; and

sending the message to the second member.

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35.   The method of claim 33, wherein the search request
further comprises one or more personal parameters associated with
members of interest to the first member, and wherein the
searching step comprises searching the member database for

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members satisfying the personal parameters included in the search request.